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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, the prophetic voice of Isaias rings across the ages and echoes in every human heart at the beginning of each day and every session of Congress. He says, "Wash yourselves clean. Put away misdeeds from before my eyes. Cease doing evil. Learn to do good. Make justice your aim. Redress the wronged. Hear the orphan's plea. Defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord. Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow. Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool."

Lord, may the new fallen snow touch the soul of the Nation. May repentant hearts move beyond pure sentiment to acts of restorative justice.

We have now been given a new day, more time to set things right. May we and may You, O Lord, respond to the prayer of the orphan and the widow, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GINGREY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 125. An act to designate the courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, as the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse".

S. 306. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Senate Resolution 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by Senate Resolution 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105-275 (adopted October 21, 1998), further amended by Senate Resolution 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), amended by Senate Resolution 383 (adopted October 27, 2000), and amended by Senate Resolution 355 (adopted November 13, 2002), and further amended by Senate Resolution 480 (adopted November 20, 2004), the Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) President pro tempore.

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) (Majority Co-Chairman).

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) (Majority Co-Chairman).

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR).

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER).

The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) (Majority Co-Chairman).

The Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFFEE).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276d-276g of Title

22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 154 of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the United States-Russia Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT).

The message also announced that in accordance with section 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 18, 2005 at 9:15 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 66.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

MONGOLIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIGHTING THE WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the country of Mongolia for its contributions in fighting the war on terror. After 9/11 the government of Mongolia expressed its strong support for the United States and offered training opportunities for coalition forces and valuable overflight clearances.

Mongolia has supported coalition operations by contributing troops to both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In fact, Mongolia has deployed four rotations in each country. And even though prior to 2000 Mongolia had not had a national policy of deploying forces beyond its borders, it became the first coalition country to contribute an infantry battalion in Iraq.

The Mongolian military is participating in peacekeeping, providing security to a logistic base in southern central Iraq, escorting convoys, constructing military barracks, medical facilities and local schools. The Mongolian soldiers have proven their bravery and skill over and over, even preventing a suicide attack that could have killed hundreds. For a small country of two and a half million people, these contributions are indeed significant and greatly appreciated, and we thank this important ally.

SUCCESS STRATEGY FOR IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in speaking to one of my constituents, he offered to tell me that his son was a member of the United States military and had just returned from Afghanistan and was a willing member of this great and wonderful dedicated military ready to go back and do his duty.

As I listened to him with a sense of pride, but also a parental sense of doubt, I could understand because we are looking now at 115 killed by a bomb outside an Iraqi clinic.

Let me read for you a quote: "I am afraid," said Qasmin, 34. "This place should have been well protected. How could the police or Army not recognize that? Don't they know this country is full of terrorism?"

Mr. Speaker, this administration owes us an explanation or a statement regarding the so-called success strategy that will allow our troops to return with dignity.

We want success in Iraq. But the constant bloodshed, the loss of lives of young men and women, the children of our American families going overseas with no road map, no design, no success strategy that will bring them home. We are owed a debate on the floor of the House to determine how we can resolve this matter to bring our troops home and have a success strategy and peace in Iraq. My sympathy to those families who lost their love ones.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL DAVID PAYTON

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Lance Corporal David Payton, a 21-year-old Marine who was injured while serving our country in Iraq.

On January 30, the same day that millions of Iraqis voted in the country's first free and successful elections, Corporal Payton's compound in Fallujah was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, which left him with severe burns and scarred lungs from chemical inhalation. He was released from the hospital last week and is continuing his recovery at home in Powder Springs, Georgia, in my 11th Congressional District.

I had the opportunity to visit with Corporal Payton on Friday, and I was impressed by his courage and commitment to this country. Corporal Payton is a former high school wrestling champion; and let me tell you, he is a fighter. He exemplifies what it means to be a soldier, willing to put your life on the line so others can be free.

The Iraqi people are now on the path of freedom and democracy, and Corporal Payton and all of our war fighters deserve our deepest gratitude for the work they have done to secure America and to spread liberty throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members join me in wishing Lance Corporal David Payton a speedy recovery.

PROVIDING BETTER RETIREMENT CHOICES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that all Americans deserve a strengthened retirement. Our current Social Security system is financially broken, outdated, and unable to meet our future retirement needs.

In 1950 there were 16 workers to support every beneficiary. Today there are only 3.3 workers per beneficiary. If Congress does not act soon, Social Security will be unable to meet its obligation to our children and grand-

children. Yesterday, I discussed this issue with fellow South Carolinians and many agree that our Social Security system faces significant problems.

President Bush is boldly leading the way to solve these problems by providing younger Americans with retirement choices and strengthening benefits for today's retirees. Reform offers younger Americans the opportunity to invest their Social Security funds in voluntary personal accounts which will provide higher benefits and allows them to build a nest egg for retirement that the government cannot take away.

As Congress continues to consider Social Security reform, I urge my colleagues to fix our system and provide better retirement choices to the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. And we will never forget September 11.

INTERNATIONAL CLONING BAN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last month a U.N. committee approved a resolution calling on nations quickly to adopt and implement legislation "to prohibit all forms of human cloning inasmuch as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life." Further, the declaration, introduced by Honduras, also called on countries to "prevent the exploitation of women." Cloning requires harvesting eggs from women.

This is significant. While not binding, I find this a hopeful statement about an emerging view towards respecting the sanctity of human life.

In early January I introduced my legislation, which, besides prohibiting Federal funding of human cloning, also expresses the sense of Congress that foreign nations should establish total prohibition on human cloning as well. The U.N. resolution will soon advance to the high court, and our Congress should lend our confidence to them. Please join with me in cosponsoring my bill H.R. 222.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF SARAH WINNEMUCCA FOR NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 5) providing for the acceptance of a statue of